(b) whether he is aware that Punjabi language is the major language after Hindi in the State;

(c) why Punjabi language has been ignored by the Railways on all the sign boards on railways stations; and

(d) whether government would remove this injustice to the minority language in Haryana State as regards Railways is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Negligent duty by railway driver

†1697. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the driver of the train starting from Jagadhri and terminating to Delhi went away after leaving the train at Khekra station on 14th December, 2007 owing to completion of his duty-time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this treatment of the driver caused extreme difficulties to the passengers;

(c) the period of time after which another driver was arranged by the Railways; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the reoccurrence of such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. No difficulty was faced by the passengerss as this was not a scheduled passenger carrying train. This was rake of empty passenger coaches.

(c) Another driver was arranged on the same day within 8 hours.

(d) Generally, detention does not occur to passenger carrying trains on account of non-availability of crews. Due care is taken to ensure that the trains runs are completed within the stipulated duty period of the driver, Stoppage to freight trains may sometimes take place, but his is well planned and deemed action is taken, as required depending on the availability of crew and the priority of the train.

Need of price regulatory mechanism

1698. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian domestic steel producers have recently hiked the prices of steel citing prevailing global trends in steel prices;

(b) the details of the increase of prices by the steel producers during the last three years and the total percentage of such increase;

(c) whether Government has taken this issue seriously and propose to rein the steel industry through a price regulatory mechanism; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.